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✓ Latest release

Personal Income in Australia

Regional data on the number of income earners, amounts received, and the distribution of income for the 2015-16 to 2019-20 financial years

Reference period 2015-16 to 2019-20

Released 8/11/2022

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Key statistics

During 2019-20:

- Total personal income was \$983.0 billion
- Median personal income was \$52,338, up 1.8% on 2018-19
- Employee income was the largest income category at 88% of total personal income

Personal Income in Australia is one of two releases containing data from the Linked

Employer-Employee Dataset (LEED). [Jobs in Australia \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/jobs-australia/latest-release/\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/jobs-australia/latest-release/), which also contains LEED data, was also released today. The [Microdata: Jobs and Income of Employed Persons, 2011-12 to 2019-20 \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/jobs-australia/\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/jobs-australia/) TableBuilder product (previously called Microdata: Jobs in Australia) is intended for release next year and contains more detailed data from the LEED.

Differences between Jobs in Australia and Personal Income in Australia

Jobs in Australia (JIA) and Personal Income in Australia (PIiA) present similar data on earners and income which comes from the LEED. However, there are a few small but important differences between JIA and PIiA that should be taken into consideration if comparing the two sets of statistics.

The number of earners will be different between the two publications. In PIiA, anyone who earns income, whether from employment, superannuation, investment etc. is counted as an earner. This also includes individuals who only receive an employment termination payment without any regular income. In JIA, earners are restricted to those who receive payment from employment, which is either working as an employee or an owner-manager of unincorporated enterprise. JIA does not include individuals who only receive an employment termination payment.

The median incomes reported in JIA are reported on a 'per job' and 'employed person' basis. However, individuals may work more than one job, either at the same time or throughout the financial year. For PIiA, the income is reported on a 'per person' basis which includes all income types, not only employment income, received in that financial year.

Migrants' jobs and income

Data on migrants living and working in Australia have been linked with the LEED for the 2019-20 financial year. Additional content and an additional data download have been added to this release.

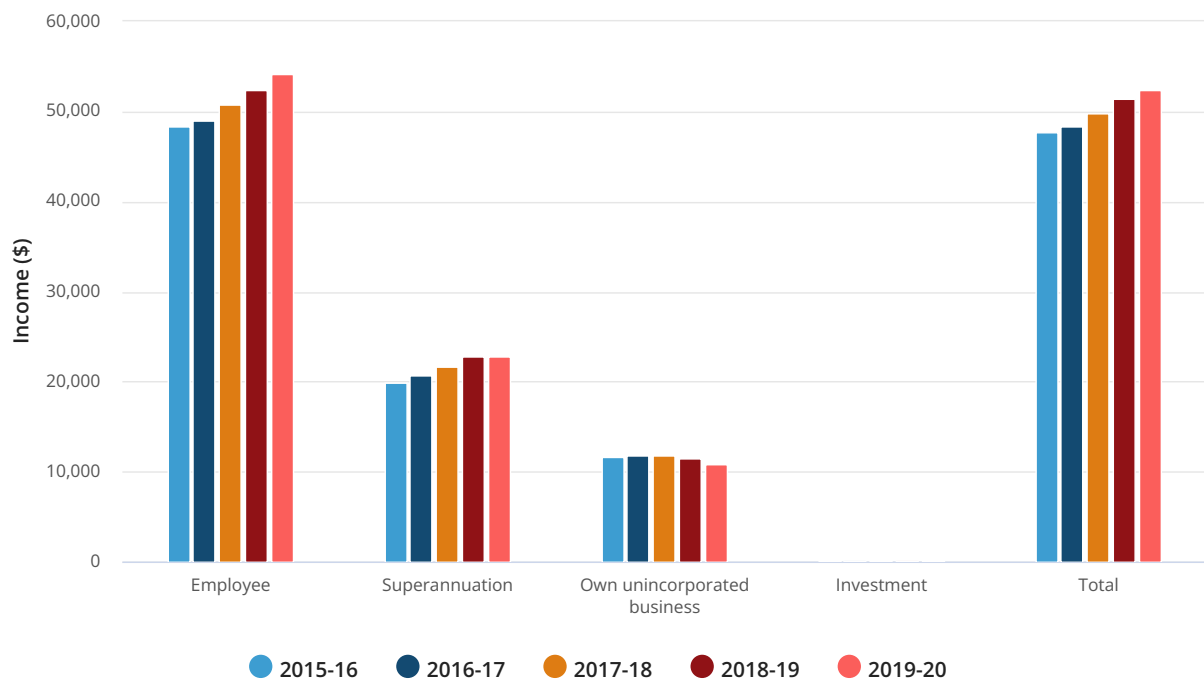
Guide to labour statistics

To learn more about our different labour measures, their purpose and how to use them, see our [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/). It provides summary information on labour market topics including [Earnings \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide/) (similar to income) data.

Sources of personal income

- Most persons (77.5%) received employee income as their main source of income, up slightly from 77.4% in the previous year.
- Employee income recorded the highest median income (\$54,161), which was 3.3% greater than the previous year.
- Superannuation income recorded the second highest median income (\$22,828), which was 0.4% greater than the previous year.
- Only 1.6% of persons received superannuation income as their main source of income (unchanged from the previous year).

Median personal income by source



State and territory

- The Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest median total income (\$68,325) and Tasmania the lowest (\$47,909).
- Victoria recorded the fastest growth rate since 2015-16 (10.7%) and Northern Territory the slowest (4.3%).

- Of all the states and territories, the top 1% of earners received the greatest share of the state's total personal income in New South Wales (10.8%).

A selection of income indicators are presented in the table below, providing an overview of the distribution of income across Australia.

Distribution indicators for total personal income

	Median total income	Median total income growth rate		Income Share		
	2019-20	Last year	Since 2015-16	Top 1% earners	Top 5% earners	Top 10% earners
Australia	\$52,338	1.8%	9.7%	9.5%	22.3%	33.3%
New South Wales	\$52,849	2.0%	9.9%	10.8%	24.0%	35.1%
Victoria	\$51,996	1.9%	10.7%	9.3%	22.1%	33.1%
Queensland	\$51,197	1.8%	9.2%	8.2%	20.6%	31.6%
South Australia	\$50,440	1.1%	9.4%	7.9%	20.2%	30.9%
Western Australia	\$55,208	1.8%	5.2%	9.9%	22.5%	33.5%
Tasmania	\$47,909	1.2%	9.3%	7.5%	19.4%	29.9%
Northern Territory	\$62,010	0.8%	4.3%	6.5%	17.4%	27.7%
Australian Capital Territory	\$68,325	2.6%	8.3%	6.8%	18.5%	29.0%

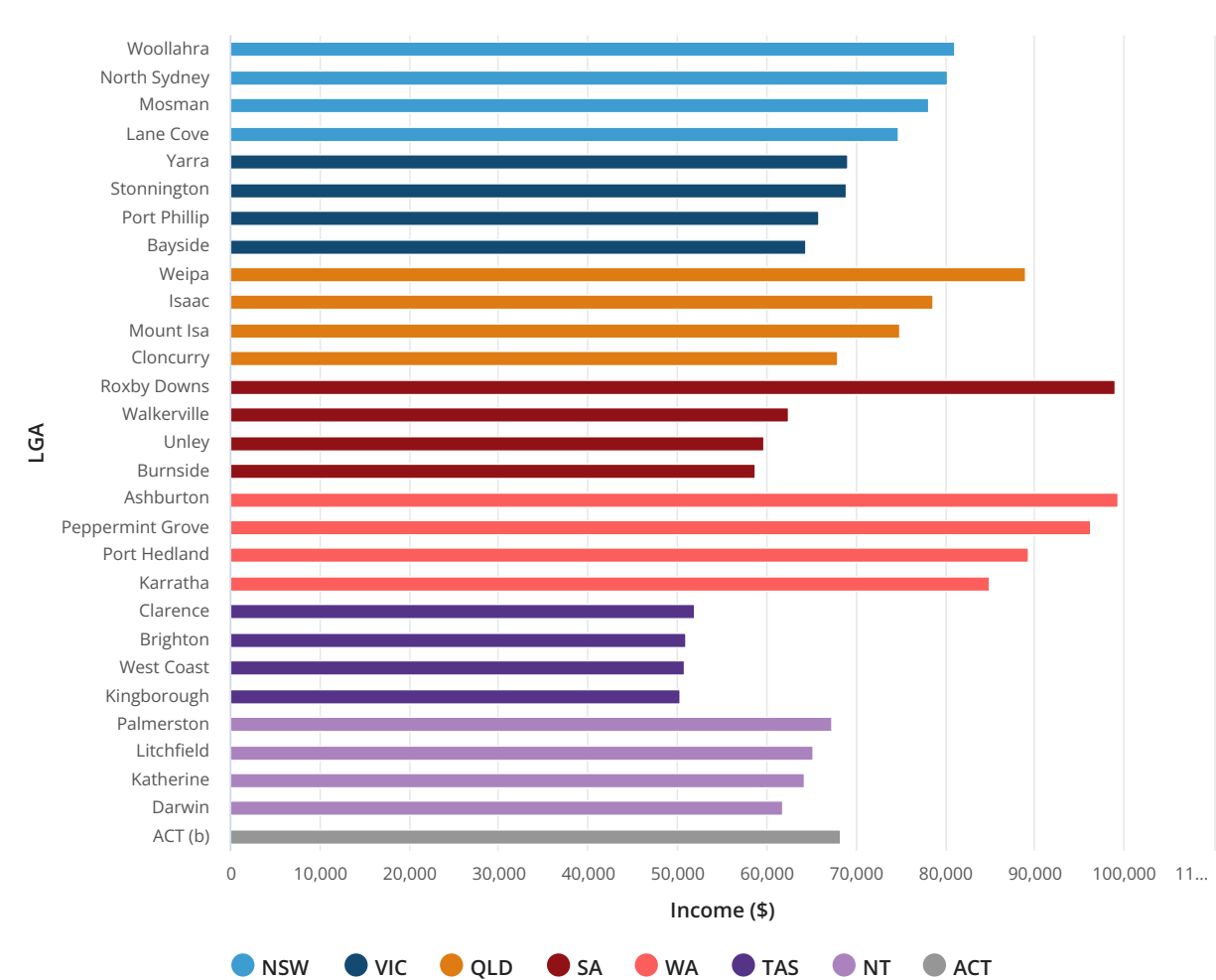
Local government area median total income

In 2019-20, the three local government areas with the highest median total income in Australia were:

- Ashburton in Western Australia (\$99,367)
- Roxby Downs in South Australia (\$98,955)
- Peppermint Grove in Western Australia (\$96,244)

The following median personal incomes are for areas with more than 1,000 earners.

Graph 2: Local government areas with the highest median total income (a)



a. Excludes local government areas with less than 1,000 earners.
b. The Australian Capital Territory does not have local government areas.

Income inequality

Gini coefficients presented in this release are provided as complementary

information. The most comprehensive estimates for calculating Gini coefficients and measuring income inequality are found in [Household Income and Wealth, Australia \(/statistics/economy/finance/household-income-and-wealth-australia/latest-release\)](#).

The Gini coefficient is a summary indicator, usually between 0 and 1 that indicates the degree of inequality among total incomes within a region. A value of 0 indicates that all earners reported the same amount of income in that region. Higher values represent relatively higher levels of income inequality. The income data reported in this release is market income and therefore can be negative. This is mainly due to losses for Owner Managers of Unincorporated Enterprises (OMUEs). For areas with large numbers of OMUEs reporting negative incomes, the Gini coefficients can exceed 1. The following Gini coefficients are for areas with 1,000 or more earners living within them and excludes the Australian Capital Territory, which does not have local government areas.

As mentioned above, data from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) provides the most comprehensive source of information for calculating Gini coefficients and measuring income inequality. As such, estimates from [Household Income and Wealth, Australia \(/statistics/economy/finance/household-income-and-wealth-australia/latest-release\)](#) should be used wherever possible, particularly at the Australia, State and Territory, and Greater Capital City Statistical Area levels. Gini coefficients from Personal Income in Australia should be considered complementary information, which provide insights for lower geographic levels. For more information about Gini coefficients, please see the [Methodology \(/methodologies/personal-income-australia-methodology/2014-15-2018-19\)](#).

In 2019-20, the following local government areas had:

The lowest income inequality (the lowest Gini coefficients) in their respective State/Territory:

- Roxby Downs in South Australia (0.351)
- Weipa in Queensland (0.354)
- Palmerston in Northern Territory (0.358)

The highest income inequality (the highest Gini coefficients) in their respective State/Territory:

- Walgett in New South Wales (1.877)
- Balonne in Queensland (0.880)
- Cottesloe in Western Australia (0.861)

Local government areas with the lowest Gini coefficients for each State and Territory, 2019-20

LGA	State/Territory	Gini coefficient	Proportion of high earners (top quartile)(a)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
Campbelltown	New South Wales	0.391	20.1%	25.4%	\$53,462	\$53,462
Melton	Victoria	0.396	21.9%	25.8%	\$53,913	\$53,913
Weipa	Queensland	0.354	51.3%	23.2%	\$88,989	\$88,989
Roxby Downs	South Australia	0.351	56.4%	21.7%	\$98,955	\$98,955
Port Hedland	Western Australia	0.377	51.0%	23.2%	\$89,365	\$89,365
Brighton	Tasmania	0.365	15.1%	23.7%	\$50,986	\$50,986
Palmerston	Northern Territory	0.358	31.1%	23.8%	\$67,256	\$67,256
Unincorporated ACT(b)	Australian Capital Territory	0.424	35.5%	29.0%	\$68,325	\$68,325

- a. Proportion of earners in each LGA whose income is in the range of the top quartile, as calculated at the national level.
- b. The Australian Capital Territory does not have Local Government Areas.

Local government areas with the highest Gini coefficients for each State and Territory, 2019-20(a)

LGA	State/Territory	Gini coefficient	Proportion of high earners (top quartile)(b)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
Walgett	New South Wales	1.877	13.5%	59.9%	\$36,855	\$23,192
Boroondara	Victoria	0.589	36.2%	43.8%	\$60,701	\$100,845
Balonne	Queensland	0.880	16.2%	40.0%	\$42,302	\$40,543
Cleve	South Australia	0.723	13.6%	35.1%	\$36,874	\$38,798
Cottesloe	Western Australia	0.861	45.3%	81.1%	\$76,983	\$369,687
Central Highlands	Tasmania	0.547	14.8%	35.0%	\$42,329	\$50,921
Roper Gulf	Northern Territory	0.499	14.8%	31.9%	\$33,955	\$46,039
Unincorporated ACT(c)	Australian Capital Territory	0.424	35.5%	29.0%	\$68,325	\$79,645

- a. Gini Coefficient can exceed 1 as some individuals report negative incomes. For further information see the [Methodology \(/methodologies/personal-income-australia-methodology/2014-15-2018-19\)](#).
- b. Proportion of earners in each LGA whose income is in the range of the top quartile, as calculated at the national level.
- c. The Australian Capital Territory does not have Local Government Areas.

Migrants

In 2019-20, 3.8 million migrant taxpayers generated \$230.3 billion in total personal income.

Most migrant taxpayers were permanent migrants (61.0% or 2.3 million people) who generated \$160.7 billion (69.8%) of total migrant income.

- \$82.9 billion (36.0%) was reported by permanent skilled migrants (1.0 million people)
- \$47.4 billion (20.6%) was reported by other permanent migrants (667,700 people)
- \$25.3 billion (11.0%) was reported by permanent family migrants (477,200 people)
- \$4.9 billion (2.1%) was reported by permanent humanitarian migrants (118,500 people)

A quarter (24.5% or 928,500 people) were temporary migrants generating \$32.2 billion (14.0%) of total migrant income.

Total income of Migrants by visa stream, 2019-20

Visa stream	Earners (persons)	Total income (\$)
Permanent	2,311,400	160,681,421,800
Permanent Skilled	1,045,700	82,935,907,000
Permanent Family	477,200	25,306,502,900
Permanent Humanitarian	118,500	4,871,646,600
Permanent Other	667,700	47,447,288,600
Provisional	95,000	3,503,269,400
Australian Citizen	42,500	3,651,002,000
NZ Citizen (subclass 444)	504,900	33,836,982,500
Temporary	928,500	32,153,513,900
Temporary Skilled	98,300	9,392,437,200
Temporary Student	344,300	7,020,969,700
Temporary Working Holiday Maker	163,000	2,867,650,100
Temporary Other	42,600	1,665,464,600
Bridging visas	184,100	7,612,290,300
Total	3,787,200	230,322,920,100

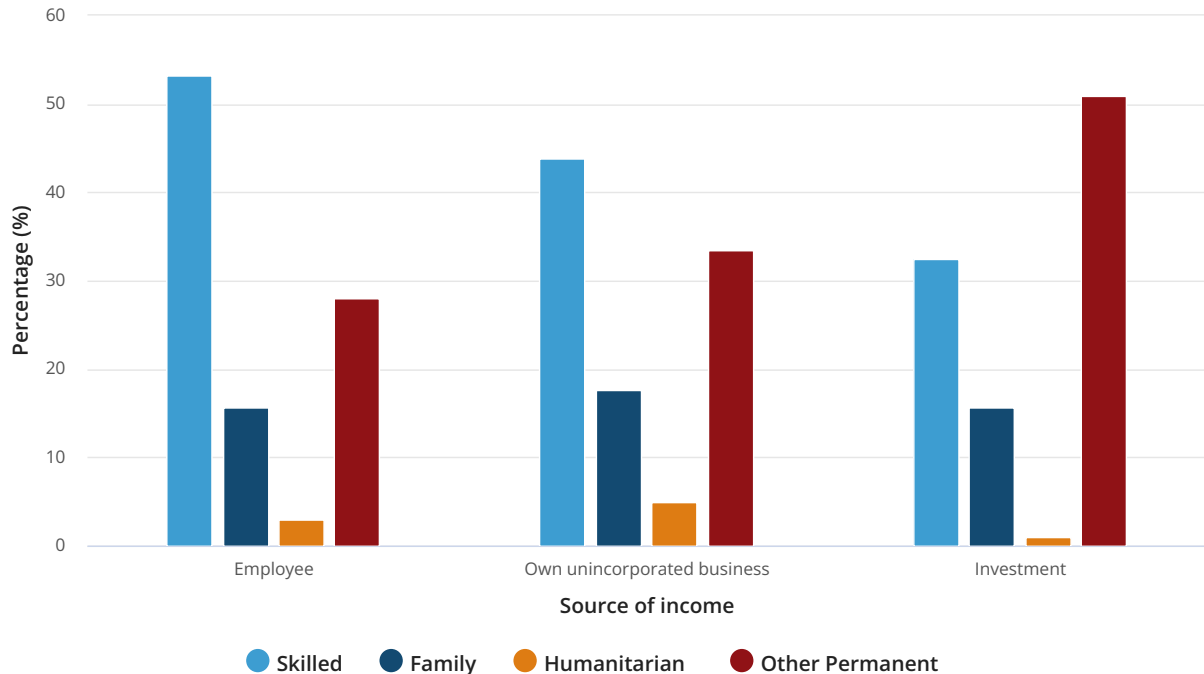
Note: Temporary visitors have been excluded.

Note: Some visa records had missing information and therefore do not contribute to visa category sub-totals.

For permanent migrants:

- \$143.4 billion was reported as employee income with skilled migrants contributing 53.2% (\$76.3 billion)
- \$9.0 billion was reported as own unincorporated business income, noting that humanitarian migrants contributed \$436 million (5.0%)
- \$6.4 billion was reported as investment income with other permanent migrants contributing 50.9% (\$3.3 billion)

Graph 3: Permanent Migrants, Proportion of personal income by visa stream, 2019-20



For temporary migrants:

- \$29.6 billion was reported as employee income, 14% of total employee income

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6524.0.55.002.

Changes in this release

Following user feedback, an extra data download table has been added containing summary information for the entire time series (2011-12 to 2019-20). More detailed data for earlier years can be found in previous issues of this release.

Post release changes

19/12/2022 - Additional commentary on migrants' personal income and a new data download was added. The methodology section was also updated with further information about migrants.

Data downloads

Table 1 - Total income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2015-16 to 2019-20

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[765.07 KB]

Table 2 - Total income distribution by geography, 2019-20

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[496.15 KB]

Table 3 - Employee income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2015-16 to 2019-20

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[891.51 KB]

Table 4 - Employee income, earners and summary statistics by age group, sex and geography, 2015-16 to 2019-20

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[1.26 MB]

Table 5 - Investment income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2015-16 to 2019-20

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[837.15 KB]

Table 6 - Own unincorporated business income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2015-16 to 2019-20

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[867.18 KB]

Table 7 - Superannuation income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2015-16 to 2019-20

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[801.33 KB]

Table 8 - Summary statistics by Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, 2011-12 to 2019-20

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[88.47 KB]

Table 9 - Personal Income of Migrants, 2019-20

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[2.37 MB]

All data cubes

↓ [Download ZIP](#)

[8.06 MB]

Methodology

[Personal Income in Australia methodology, 2015-16 to 2019-20](#)